



**Open Space Committee
Town Hall Annex, First Floor
Minutes 9/22/16 Meeting**

Present: Nat Strosberg, Brian Kelder, Jane Auger, David White, Ann LeRoyer, Wendy Richter, John Pickle, Kelsey Cowen

Absent: Elena Bartholomew, Teresa DeBenedictis

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm

Minutes from 6/23/16 were reviewed and approved unanimously without change

Minutes from 9/8/16 were reviewed and approved unanimously without change

OSC web page needs to be updated on Town website to represent new members and add missing minutes and agendas. Ann will coordinate with Amy in the Planning office

Mugar Development Plan "Thorndike Place":

ZBA hearing on 9/27

We discussed the Oaktree plan and a draft OSC response letter to be submitted to ZBA. The letter was reviewed, amended and approved unanimously by the Committee.

Town Day:

Thanks to all who helped - John, David, Wendy, Kelsey, Ann

Maps of walking routes were popular at the booth. We had one large map for viewing and smaller copies as handouts.

Sign-up sheet and images of QR codes were also used by visitors.

Take A Walk/Connecting Arlington's Open Spaces:

We should update maps to include labels on pictures, contact info, and "Take a Walk" logo. Wendy and Kelsey will continue to work with Adam Kurowski in Planning Dept on finalizing the map so we can put a PDF on the Town website and use social media and the Advocate to publicize the map routes and concept.

A walking tour could be scheduled to introduce this concept; possibly with Ed Gordon as a walk leader. At this point, next spring is the time to schedule this.

A new "Support Arlington Heights" group is interested in promoting that part of town, and that may be a natural place to expand the walking routes.

Kelsey and others will begin to look at routes in the Heights area for next project.

Picture Posts:

Great interest at Town Day, with requests for more posts in different areas including Spy Pond Park and Robbins Town Hall Gardens.

John will work on publicity, including an interview/demonstration on local cable access, social media, Advocate article, etc.

Open Space and Recreation Plan:

We still need to set up a process to monitor action items and track accomplishments for the future, similar to what may be used for the Master Plan; Wendy and Nat will check with Laura Wiener in Planning to see if there is a system in place.

We still need to prioritize other new projects to work on through the year.

Each spring the committee should have one meeting to do an annual review of what has happened during the past year and keep track with this new system.

News and Reports:

- We had a citizen question about public access to playing fields – he was advised that PRC and Recreation Department control use and requests.
- Belmont doesn't have an Open Space Committee or Plan and a resident was asking for insights on how our group got started. Ann is in touch with her.
- A Beach Party at the Res on Sept 17 was a fundraiser for Arlington Parks Alliance with about 100 attendees.
- MyRWA Chestnut cleanup at Res continued in September with corporate volunteers.
- A Reservoir Master Plan is being considered by PRC with a request to CPA to fund the process, consultants, etc.
- Mill Brook Study Committee (Master Plan) walk on Sept 30 at 8am starting at Brattle St/Minuteman Village.

Adjourned at 9pm

2016 Meeting Dates

October 27, November 17, December TBD

Submitted by Jane Auger